

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 216177
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-06 CA-01 CPR-02 CIAE-00
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/051 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:VSGRAY
APPROVED BY EUR:JGOODBY
EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER
L/M:HSHAMWELL (INFO)
CA/SCS:LDAY(INFO)

-----101475 250009Z /12

O R 242337Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CGEN, PFOR, GE, GW, BQG

SUBJECT:"CIRCLE OF PERSONS" APPROACH: FRG EMBASSY REACTION

REF: A) STATE 213663 NOTAL, B) STATE 215052

1. DURING AUGUST 24 MEETING WITH WOESSNER AND GRAY, EUR/CE,
FRG DCM HANSEN WAS GIVEN NON-PAPER (REF A) ON "CIRCLE OF
PERSONS" APPROACH AND TOLD THAT, IF FRG HAD NO PROBLEMS,
WE WOULD PRESENT TEXT OF PROPOSED US STATEMENT TO BONN
GROUP.

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2. HANSEN'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO ASK WHETHER WE HAD CON-
SIDERED USING "PERSONS" INSTEAD OF "CITIZENS" WOESSNER
REPLIED ALONG THE LINES OF PARA 2, REF B, ADDING THAT WE
HAD THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED THAT OPTION AND DISCARDED IT IN
FAVOR OF CURRENT FORMULATION WHICH WE FELT WOULD BE "MORE
ENTICING" TO GDR. RECALLING AMBASSADOR STADEN'S OCTOBER 31,
1977 PRESENTATION TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, WOESSNER

SAID THAT IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FRG WAS NOT CONCERNED OVER THE USE OF THE TERM "GDR CITIZEN" BUT RATHER THAT THAT TERM NOT BE DEFINED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO DAMAGE CONCEPT OF OVERLAPPING GDR CITIZENSHIP AND GERMAN NATIONALITY. NOTING THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH STADEN-VEST CONVERSATION, HANSEN NODDED AGREEMENT WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING.

3. TURNING TO SECOND SENTENCE OF U.S. TEXT AND STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HANSEN ASKED WHETHER WE COULD DELETE "ANY OTHER STATE." WOESSNER REPLIED THAT THAT WOULD CAUSE US GREAT PROBLEMS, SINCE IT WOULD REINSERT CONCEPT OF THE DETAINEE'S VOLITION BACK INTO THE STATEMENT, GIVING GDR AN EXCUSE TO REFUSE US ACCESS TO DETAINED AMERICANS. HANSEN THEN SUGGESTED INSERTING "NON-GDR" BEFORE "CONSULAR OR OTHER OFFICIALS." WOESSNER REPLIED THAT SUCH A FORMULATION WOULD BE "STYLISTICALLY AWKWARD" AND UNNECESSARY SINCE OUR TEXT "BROKE NO NEW GROUND."

4. WOESSNER REPORTED THAT U.S.BONN GROUP REP WOULD PRESENT SAME NON-PAPER TO FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY "TODAY OR TOMORROW" AND WOULD, AFTER OBTAINING FRG OPINION, PRESENT OUR PROPOSAL TO FULL BONN GROUP. HE ADDED THAT, UNLESS THE FRG POSED A STRONG POLITICAL OBJECTION, WE WOULD STICK TO CURRENT FORMULATION. CHRISTOPHER

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